



# TEXAS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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A joint endeavor of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Health

## Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council

April 19, 2002

### Meeting Minutes

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Adams  
Cheryl Amoruso  
Kate Burgess  
Nancy Childs, MD  
Pat Craig, PhD  
Mirian Detres  
Julia Hannay, PhD  
Walter High, PhD

Carrie Morris  
Cathy Rich, JD  
Gary Rose  
Jesse Seawell, IV  
Annie Walker  
Les Walker  
Roger Webb

#### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Reverend Kenneth Archer  
Mary Carlile, MD  
Jeff Latham  
Mary Beth O'Hanlon

Susan Penfield, MD  
Manuel Rodriguez  
Les Young

#### TBI PROJECT STAFF PRESENT:

Larry Swift  
Susan Valley

Kathy Griffis-Bailey  
Tina Lopez

#### CONTRACTORS PRESENT:

Lauren Jahnke  
Holly Davis, Brain Injury Association of Texas (BIATx)  
Chip Howe, BIATx

#### GUESTS PRESENT:

Kim Gregg, Texas Department of Health, (TDH)  
Susan Kolliopoulos, TDH

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Carrie Morris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:07a.m. requesting all members present introduce themselves.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chip Howe discussed the work and vision of the Brain Injury Association of Texas.

Chip Howe, President of the Brain Injury Association of Texas commented on his favorable impression with the TBIAC's progress and their activities. He reported that the BIATx provides quality information to families in Texas who have a family member with a TBI. There are subcommittees within the BIATx, which are? The focus on membership with the board is on quality as opposed to quantity. Holly Davis is working on the BIATx website. The website has 150 people access the site on any given day. Phone calls are usually returned within 48hrs. The website provides better coverage and more immediate assistance than answering phone calls. A survey was administered to TBI service providers with the future goal of sending the survey to survivors and professionals.

### **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2002 MEETING**

TBIAC council member Gary Rose's name was not included on the January 25, 2002 minutes. The motion was made by Gary Rose to approve the minutes with the revision reflecting his presence at the meeting. The minutes were seconded by Mary Adams and approved with the revision.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Carrie Morris gave the report. A letter to Commissioner Gilbert requesting funding for the continuance of the TBI project and the TBIAC with an attached proposed budget was sent and subsequently acknowledged. She discussed her trip to Washington and her meeting with staff members who work for Rep. Granger and Rep. Hutchinson. During this trip she distributed materials to raise awareness on TBI issues. She recommended that members distribute materials to help promote systems changes. She reported that the US legislature's Brain Injury Task Force is in need of representatives. She encouraged the council members to get more involved.

Carrie Morris recently attended the TBI advocates training provided by the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) entitled "So You Want To Be An Advocate." The training held in Austin, focused on learning about the process of passing a bill. As part of the training, they worked on two bills: a Medicaid Waiver for TBI clients and education within schools on "Shaken Baby Syndrome".

### **UPDATE ON STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATION**

David Zane gave a report on the stakeholder process which at the end of August 2001, recommended changes to the Trauma Registry including name reporting subject to an attorney's opinion that this would not Violate HIPPA or SB11. A request for an opinion has been forwarded to the TDH Office of General Counsel and they are awaiting a response. As the attorney has been working on the Bioterrorism Task Force, it has taken longer than expected.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Larry Swift gave a report on grant activities and the grant award time period, which expires on 3/31/03. He gave details on the opportunity to apply for a post implementation grant.

He welcomed new member Mirian Detres from Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA). He said TCADA involvement is especially welcome since alcohol and drug abuse create significant problems that affect people with TBI. He reported on the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual BIATx

conference coming up on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. He reported that TEA Region 13 Service center in the Austin area has expressed an interest in developing educational materials on a large scale for school education. This would be something similar to the 1996 manual that was developed for educators. One case manager's training in Amarillo has been completed and another one in San Antonio is scheduled. All regions in the state are targeted for trainings. Education and training for hospital case managers, independent living center coordinators and front line workers is being focused on. Advocacy training for new advocates is occurring, with the need for more consumer advocate family members for TBI patients.

### **TBI REGISTRY REPORT**

Tammy Sajak gave a power point presentation on drownings and near drownings (submersions). Kim Gregg, who assists with analysis of submersion data was introduced. Submersions data are obtained from hospitals and death certificates combined. In 1999, there were 735 total cases. Of those cases, 696 were Texas residents. Ten percent of the cases involved air medical rescue. The cost is tremendous for air rescue services for these preventable injuries.

### **REPORT ON BIATx CONTRACT**

Holly Davis reported on BIATx contract activities including the packets of information in English and Spanish that are now ready for distribution. The packets include information on Brain Injury and Important First Steps in the process of assisting families to get appropriate services. She reported on the information and referral tracking and call system that are going well. A resource directory is in development and will be put on the web-site when completed. She reported on trainings on TBI for case managers that are planned and being conducted by Jim Misko and TBIP staff within all areas of Texas. There have been many requests for information regarding the Brain Injury Association of Texas conference in August. Six radio stations in central Texas will run public service announcements on TBI information between June and October on Sunday mornings. It is hoped this effort will expand statewide into other markets. The Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) coalition has requested that the BIATx distribute flyers and awareness packets on SBS. Each chapter will be contacted for participation.

### **EVALUATION REPORT**

Lauren Jahnke reported on the evaluation activities for the TBI Project. She reviewed the process for how she collects information needed to evaluate activities and included a review of the summary of all evaluated activities. Objective 1 activities were discussed, specifically the numbers of return mailers that have been returned to TDH. A discussion on various methods to achieve a higher response rate followed, specifically on accessing Department of Human Services (DHS) community care programs and the Office of Disabilities. Activities on removing barriers to services was reported on with the statement that most of the work is pending and dependant on legislative activities. She reported on the plans for quarterly audits on future program activities, during the last year of the grant.

### **TBIAC Report**

Carrie Morris reported on the need to prepare for the TBIAC report to Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) on removing barriers to services and legislative initiatives by October 2002. Members were assigned to one of four groups and asked to follow directions from their group leader. Each group dispersed to their assigned location with instructions to return with a report on their activities. The reports were deferred until later due to lack of time. Carrie asked the council

members to decide on a day in June or July that would accommodate all members to meet for a day-long session to discuss and work on legislative initiatives. It was decided after reviewing calendars with individual members that July 30, 2002 is the best day for the meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Identification Committee**

Walter High reported on the TBI model systems comments, thanking members for their input concerning future model systems projects. He discussed efforts to provide home-based services, integrate services for minorities, and cultural issues.

The motion was made by Walter High to approve the use of name reporting statements. The motion passed.

The return mailers are to be distributed to trauma nurse coordinators at a conference the end of May. The committee reviewed screening tools and questionnaires used to identify people with TBI and strategies to use them within schools including a suggestion to involve Parent/Teacher Associations to assist in this process and usage or a shortened version of the Brain Injury Screening Questionnaire (BISQ tool).

### **Barriers Committee**

Mary Adams reported on long-term care workgroup activities, including the Consolidated Waiver Program (CWP), the Consumer Directed Services activities, formerly known as the VFI Option, and the Ticket to Work-Medicaid Buy-In pilot projects.

Mary Adams reported on the committee recommendation for Carrie Morris to attend the upcoming Rehab Act hearing in Dallas to testify on behalf of the council. Mary Adams moved that Carrie Morris testify on the reauthorization of the Rehab Act, the motion passed.

The SB 367-Information on Community Based Options was discussed in regard to a letter of support addressed to Addie Horn at HHSC. Members suggested that language be included addressing the need for a timely process to inform families about community options. It was decided that a friendly amendment with revisions to the letter be developed before sending to HHSC. Mary Adams moved for approval of the letter with revisions. The motion passed.

Mary reported on a letter to Tommy Ford, unit manager for the CLASS program requesting the inclusion of cognitive therapy as a separate service. Mary Adams moved for approval of the letter with revisions. The motion passed.

A process to identify methods to provide comments on rules and policies was submitted to the council for discussion and approval. Mary Adams moved to approve the process and adopt this as the procedure for the committees, full council, and TBI staff to follow. The motion passed.

### **Education Committee**

Gary Rose discussed recent activities on educational materials. This included the video developed by Texas Educational Association (TEA) on TBI for use in schools and public service announcements. The Committee discussed developing a family training curriculum.

**Planning Committee**

Pat Craig gave the Planning Committee Report. The Planning Committee is responsible for determining the best method for continuation of the TBI project and the TBIAC. He reported on the continuation of the Autism council as a model to follow for council continuance, pursuing legislative inclusion of the TBIAC with or without funding, possible grants, and the possibility that HHSC will include the project and council in their legislative agenda for the next session. Pat emphasized the need for the council members advise on planning activities.

**HB 1676 update**

Larry reported on the two sets of proposed draft rules developed for HB 1676, emphasizing a need for comments on the proposed rules, now open for public comment. Public testimony is desired that will assist with counteracting the insurance industry testimony.

**Board Roster on TBIAC meeting**

Carrie requested that council members discuss their preferences for personal information to be included on the TBIAC roster website page. Gary Rose suggested that a legal opinion should be sought and informed members that legally all information is considered public, unless a request is made to omit the information from the roster. A draft roster page will be developed and distributed to the members for review, approval and use on the website.

**Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

The next meeting of the council was set for July 30, 2002 to be held at a location determined by TBI staff and announced at a later date. Casual attire is suggested due to summer months.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Morris, Chair